

Applicant: Murgesh Navar
Serial No.: 09/927,665
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Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

(a) splitting a video file into a first piece and a second piece, the video file being a digital representation of a video;

(b) moving the first piece through a cable network to a first building and storing the first piece in the first building on a first storage device, wherein the first storage device is disposed in a first set-top box;

(c) moving the second piece through the cable network to a second building and storing the second piece in the second building on a second storage device, wherein the second storage device is disposed in a second set-top box;

(d) moving the first piece from the first storage device through the cable network and into a third building, and storing the first piece in the third building on a third storage device, wherein the third storage device is disposed in a third set-top box;

(e) moving the second piece from the second storage device through the cable network and into the third building, and storing the second piece in the third building on the third storage device; and

(f) retrieving and displaying the first piece from the third storage device and substantially contiguously retrieving and displaying the second piece from the third storage device such that the video is displayed in the third building as a single unit.

2.(Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the cable network involves fiber optic cables but no coaxial cable.

3.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) occurs in a central cable station.

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4.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) occurs in a distribution hub.

5.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the splitting of (a) is performed by a content provider, and wherein after the splitting of (a) the first piece and the second piece are supplied to a central cable station.

6.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the video file is an MPEG file.

7.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the cable network includes: a distribution hub, a first fiber node, a second fiber node, a primary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub, a first secondary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub and to the first fiber node, a second secondary fiber optic network coupled to the distribution hub and to the second fiber node, a first tertiary network coupled to the first fiber node and extending to the first building and to the second building, and a second tertiary network coupled to the second fiber node and extending to the third building.

8.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is a first hard disk disposed in a the first TV set-top box, and wherein the second storage device is a second hard disk disposed in a the second TV set-top box, and wherein the third storage device is a third hard disk disposed in a the third TV set-top box.

9.(Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is a first persistent storage media disposed in a first computer, and wherein the second storage device is a second persistent storage media disposed in a second computer, and wherein the third storage device is a third persistent storage media disposed in a third computer.

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10.(Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is a first memory disposed in a the first TV set-top box, and wherein the second storage device is a second memory disposed in a the second TV set-top box, and wherein the third storage device is a third memory disposed in a the third TV set-top box.

11.(Canceled) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first storage device is disposed in one of the following: a residential gateway, a personal computer, and a TV set-top box; wherein the second storage device is disposed in one of the following: a residential gateway, a personal computer, and a TV set-top box; and wherein the third storage device is disposed in one of the following: a residential gateway, a personal computer, and a TV set-top box.

12.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the moving of (d) and the moving of (e) occur substantially simultaneously.

13.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the video is displayed in (f) in the third building on a television screen.

14.(Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the first piece moves from the first storage device in (d) with a first data rate DR1, wherein the second piece moves from the second storage device in (e) with a second data rate DR2, wherein the first and second pieces move into the third storage device in (d) and (e) with a combined data rate CDR, and wherein CDR is equal to or greater than the sum of DR1 and DR2.

15.(Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(g) determining a downstream available bandwidth into the third storage device; and

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(h) determining a first upstream available bandwidth out of the first storage device and determining a second upstream available bandwidth out of the second storage device; and

(i) based at least in part on (g) and (h), determining how from which of the first, second or first and second storage devices the first and second pieces of the video file will move through the cable network ~~and~~ to the third storage device.

16.(Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~14~~ 15, wherein the first piece moves from the first storage device in (d) with a first data rate DR1, wherein the second piece moves from the second storage device in (e) with a second data rate DR2, and wherein the sum of DR1 and DR2 is approximately equal to the downstream available bandwidth determined in (g).

17.(Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

- (g) viewing a web page on a television screen in the third building;
- (h) selecting a link on the web page, the link being indicative of the video; and
- (i) in response to the selecting of the link, initiating the moving of (d) and (e).

18.(Canceled) A method, comprising:

- (a) receiving a video file from a cable IP network and storing the video file on a TV set-top box, the TV set-top box being coupled to a television having a television screen, the video file being a digital representation of a video;
- (b) viewing a user interface;
- (c) selecting a link on the user interface, the link being indicative of the video; and
- (d) in response to the selecting of the link, retrieving the video file from the TV set-top box and displaying the video on the television screen.

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19.(Canceled) The method of Claim 18, wherein the user interface in (b) is displayed on the television screen, and wherein the user interface is taken from the group consisting of: a web page, a Java application, a C program, a Macromedia Flash animation, and a byte-code language supported on an interactive television middleware platform.

20.(Canceled) The method of Claim 18 wherein the user interface in (b) is displayed on a device taken from the group consisting of: a computer monitor, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a cellular telephone with web access, and a wireless device having a screen.

21.(Canceled) A method of using a plurality of hard disks in a plurality of TV set-top boxes as a storage area network, the plurality of TV set-top boxes being coupled together via a cable television network, the storage area network including a central controller coupled to the cable television network, the central controller maintaining a map of where information is stored on the plurality of hard disks.

22.(Currently amended) A method, comprising:

- (a) splitting a digital video file into a first piece and a second piece;
- (b) moving the first piece through a cable television network to a first building and storing the first piece in the first building on a first storage device, wherein the first piece is stored on the first storage device in a first computer-readable medium;
- (c) moving the second piece through the cable television network to a second building and storing the second piece in the second building on a second storage device, wherein the second piece is stored on the second storage device in a second computer-readable medium;

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(d) moving the first piece from the first storage device through the cable television network and into a third building, and storing the first piece in the third building on a third storage device, wherein the third piece is stored on the third storage device in a third computer-readable medium; and

(e) moving the second piece from the second storage device through the cable television network and into the third building, and storing the second piece in the third building in the third computer-readable medium on the third storage device; and

(f) displaying the first piece in the third building and substantially contiguously displaying the second piece in the third building such that video information recorded in the digital video file is displayed as a single contiguous amount of video.

23.(New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the first, second and third storage devices are coupled together via the cable television network so that the first, second and third storage devices form a storage area network, the storage area network further comprising a central controller, the central controller maintaining a map of where the video information is stored in the storage area network.

24.(New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the cable television network is a cable IP network.

25.(New) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

- viewing a page on a television screen in the third building;
- selecting a link on the page, the link being indicative of the video; and
- in response to the selecting of the link, initiating the moving of (d) and (e), wherein the first piece and second piece are displayed in (f) on the television screen.

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26.(New) The method of Claim 25, wherein the page is served by a central controller, the central controller maintaining a map of where the video information is stored on the first, second and third storage devices.

27.(New) The method of Claim 22, wherein the third storage device is a wireless device having a screen, and wherein the first and second pieces are displayed in (f) on the screen.

28.(New) A method, comprising:

(a) splitting a multimedia file into a first piece and a second piece, the multimedia file being a digital representation of a multimedia content, wherein the multimedia content includes information taken from the group consisting of: an amount of video, a game, an amount of music, a picture;

(b) moving the first piece through a cable television network to a first building and storing the first piece in the first building on a first set-top box;

(c) moving the second piece through the cable television network to a second building and storing the second piece in the second building on a second set-top box;

(d) selecting a link, wherein the link is indicative of the multimedia content;

(d) in response to the selecting of (d) moving the first piece from the first storage device through the cable television network and into a third building, and storing the first piece in the third building on a third set-top box;

(e) in response to the selecting of (d) moving the second piece from the second storage device through the cable television network and into the third building, and storing the second piece in the third building on the third set-top box; and

(f) retrieving the first and second pieces from the third set-top box and consuming the first and second pieces in the third building as a single amount of multimedia content.

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29.(New) The method of Claim 28, wherein the cable television network and the first and second and third set-top boxes form a storage area network, and wherein the single amount of multimedia content is consumed on a wireless device having a screen.